

CIRCULAR

*Of the Bishop of Toronto to the Clergy of the Diocese, to be read in each Church and Station
previous to the two Annual Collections for the Diocesan Seminary.*

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

According to our regulation, approved by our own Superior, on the Sundays following our Lady-day in February, when Mary offered for our sins Her only Son, the Light of the World, to be our Priest and Victim on the Cross, and in Pentecost time, when we commemorate the Apostolic Mission of the Twelve first Priests, you have to take up, throughout all your Mission, a Collection for the Diocesan Seminary.

In order to secure the success of this good work, so much recommended by the Council of Trent, Pius IX., and all the Church, let the people previously understand well, that according to the Prophets, there is no more desolating famine for a country, than the scarcity of Pastors, as no greater bliss than zealous Pastors, feeding the people with knowledge and doctrine; and that there should be in this Diocese at least sixty Priests more, at the rate of *one* for two hundred families, if we wish to see the public worship more regular, Mass oftener offered up, the Sacraments more frequently received, the children and sick better attended, the vice of Intemperance less rooted and spread, all Catholic habits thoroughly implanted.

Let the people know that the preceding Collections, however light on them, have been very beneficial to the Seminary; that so far, we have introduced into the Diocese forty-two Priests, and we educate about forty aspirants to the Sanctuary, fifteen of whom, we hope, will be gradually ordained priests within three years; that even in countries where Clergymen are not so much wanted as here, the sixth part of each Church Revenue goes to the support of the Diocesan Seminary; that the City of New York gave, last year, £1000 for its St. Joseph's Seminary; and we have known servants and labourers who, with their wages, supported Students for the Sanctuary.

Lastly, tell your intelligent, devoted, and generous faithful, that their Bishop himself is partly indebted to funds of the same kind for his ecclesiastical education, that you, yourself, give about £10 a year for the same cause, and that by imitating you, according to their means, they will draw, perhaps, upon some of their children, the incomparable blessing of Apostleship, and undoubtedly upon all their family the choicest blessings of Heaven, which we wish them and you, Reverend and dear Sir, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*



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